

March 8, 2021

Testimony in Support of H.B. 6550

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE OFFICE OF HEALTH STRATEGY'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING
VARIOUS REVISIONS TO COMMUNITY BENEFITS PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY HOSPITALS**

Dear Senator Mary Daugherty Abrams, Representative Jonathan Steinberg, and Members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Janet Bellamy, I live in Ashford Connecticut and am writing in support of HB 6550 An Act Concerning the Office of Health Strategy's Recommendations Regarding Various Revisions to Community Benefits Programs Administered by Hospitals.

As an occupational therapist, I have seen both the positive and negative impacts community services have on the health and well being of my clients. Young and old alike are in need of access to healthcare, but the requirements of differing populations are not the same. It is vital that the community health needs assessments (CHNAs) that are required every 3 years include all populations and lead to community health improvement plans that are based on public health needs of every community.

H.B. 6550 will ensure community benefits address the needs of communities residing in every nonprofit hospital's service area as well as improve transparency and accountability of the CHNA process.

Many residents in Eastern Connecticut are appalled at the terminations of labor and delivery services at Windham and Rockville hospitals. A comprehensive community health needs assessment would undoubtedly have shown these are important services for the health of the communities these hospitals serve.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding An Act Concerning the Office of Health Strategy's Recommendations Regarding Various Revisions to Community Benefits Programs Administered by Hospitals I urge you to support this important bill.

Sincerely,

Janet Bellamy, M. Ed., OTR/L